

[Yankee Folk]

[Caftwa?] BAB has sent is sending for papers 1 thru 4. Arranged & cut by SBH 12-12-39
[not necessary to wait for missing papers - as there is a long mss. obviously containg
everything.

Order on Yankee Innkeeper

BAB:

? Picking His Team

I Travel as I Please

[Hafaway's ?] Bear

Glinsky

Rocking Chair

And the Horse is Gone

Ben - The above is the order you suggested - how about changing title of last section to A
Hotel in the Nineties [or?] Summer Hotel

Yankee Gentility-Men Does not seem [?] - only #4 has any flavor. Most of data in editorial
notes, not in interview x

Yankee Folk

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MacCurrie - Thomaston, Conn. (Donovan)

23 papers, 115 pages of copy. One paper is a general description of the "fire house crowd;" the remaining 22 are conversations in the manner of "cracker-box" sessions, with MacCurrie as the principal figure.

The articles seem to be me to be well done, they could be made - with some cutting - into a pleasing unit, which would be publishable somewhere, BUT THEY DO NOT FIT INTO THIS SERIES.

It would not be possible to pick out enough of MacCurrie talking alone to make a unified story; there is nothing about clockmaking; the entire point of the articles is the presentation of a small town group in their hang-out, the fire house, with contrast between the old and the younger son. This would be lost if attempt were made to fit them into the scheme of Yankee Folk.

My suggestion is to drop this set and use elsewhere.

SBH

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SBH 12/18/39

Clockmakers of Thomaston (continued) -page 2

Bartholomew Albecker, German, employed by company 48 years:

Paper A; 15, 16, 17 in order indicated

Albert Bailey, English, employed by company 48 years.

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Paper B: pages 1, 2, 3

[???

Frank Hoyt (nationality not given here, but he is designated as previously interviewed, so we can no doubt find his nationality etc in other Donovan papers, or write for info.) Sounds Yankee)

Paper C: pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 8

John Davis (as with Hoyt, nationality not given)

Paper D: pages 3, 4, 5

Anton Scheebel, German, employed by company for 46 years

Paper # 7: pages 4, 5, 6

Charles [Saus?] (nationality and term of employment missing)

Paper # 7: pages 10, 11,

Charles Smith, Yankee, employed 37 years:

Paper # 17: pages 3, 4, 5, 6

Arthur Botsford, Yankee, 65 years of clockmaking, started when 15.

Paper 18: pages 5, 10, [?], 11, 7, 8, 13, 14, (as indicated.)

[probably 20-30 [?] altogether

First Assignment — 12/2/39

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YANKEE FOLK

Living Lore in New England

1. The problem:

A. To give a cross-section of New England life in terms of occupations as related to towns and nationality groups.

B. To produce an integrated and readable collection of "own stories" valuable not only as documents but also as personal narratives with the flavor of talk.

2. The materials:

A. A large body of interviews by one field worker with one informant in each of a number of occupations in New England.

B. These interviews are generally in the form of first-person narratives but often they are essays incorporating description and exposition as well as narration.

C. In some cases an attempt has been made to record everything as heard; in other cases, the writer has listened and remembered. (The first method is the method of the reporter; the second is the method of "creative listening.")

D. In most cases the dialect is poor; in most cases there is enough of the idiom to give flavor and authenticity.

3. Questions:

A. How can the interviews in each section be integrated by weaving them together into a single piece? by a series of related and unified pieces. Shall the method vary with the several sections?

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B. How can the flavor of talk be preserved without falling into pseudo-dialect, repetition, etc.?

C. How can both A and B be accomplished without doing violence to the original material?

4. Suggestions:

A. Read the Manuals for Folklore and [Social?]-Ethnic Studies.

B. Read "Crazy Swede" as a sample of editing and write a criticism of it in the light of 1, 2, 3 above.

5. Procedure:

A. Each of us will take one batch of material to read and index and arrange into a continuity.

B. Each of us will then exchange with the others for criticism and discussion.